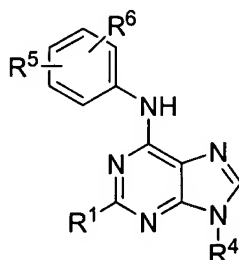


Amendments to the Abstract:

Please replace the Abstract with the following:

The present invention provides compositions and methods for differentiating and transdifferentiating mammalian cells into cells of an osteoblast lineage, using compounds of the following formula:



wherein R⁴ is a functional group including, for example, C₁₋₄alkyl, C₃₋₈cycloalkyl, hydroxyl-C₁₋₄alkyl, aryl-C₀₋₃alkyl, substituted with 0-2 R^{4a} groups, and heterocyclo-C₀₋₂alkyl, optionally substituted with C₁₋₄alkyl; R⁵ is hydrogen and R⁶ is a functional group including, for example, halogen, C₁₋₄alkyl, -C(O)-C₁₋₄alkyl, -SO₂-N(R^{2b}, R^{2b}), halo-C₁₋₄alkyl, -O-aryl and -N(R⁷, R⁸), or when R⁵ and R⁶ are on adjacent ring atoms they are optionally taken together to form -O-(CH₂)₁₋₂-O-; and all pharmaceutically acceptable salts and hydrates thereof.